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Geo. W. Piddle Esq. 29
THE LAWS RELATING *Nov 25*
with the deposits of
J. R. Snowden.

TO THE

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

AND ITS BRANCHES.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR, FOR THE USE OF THE
MINT AND BRANCHES.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED BY B. F. MIFFLIN, 217 WALNUT ST.
1859.

U.S. laws, statutes, &c. Currency law

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OFFICERS OF THE MINTS.

1.—MINT AT PHILADELPHIA.

DIRECTOR,
TREASURER,
CHIEF COINER,
MELTER AND REFINER,
ENGRAVER,
ASSAYER,

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN.
JAMES H. WALTON.
GEORGE K. CHILDS.
JAMES C. BOOTH.
JAMES B. LONGACRE.
JACOB R. ECKFELDT.

2.—BRANCH MINT, NEW ORLEANS.

SUPERINTENDENT,
TREASURER,
MELTER AND REFINER,
COINER,

WILLIAM A. ELMORE.
A. J. GUIROT.
M. F. BONZANO.
B. F. TAYLOR.

3.—BRANCH MINT, SAN FRANCISCO.

SUPERINTENDENT,
TREASURER,
ASSAYER,
MELTER AND REFINER,
COINER,

CHARLES H. HEMPSTEAD.
J. R. SNYDER.
J. H. SNYDER.
L. A. GARNETT.
R. W. SLOCUM.

4.—BRANCH MINT, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

SUPERINTENDENT AND TREASURER,
ASSAYER,
COINER,

GREEN W. CALDWELL.
JOHN H. GIBBON.
EMMOR GRAHAM.

5.—BRANCH MINT, DAHLONEGA, GEO.

SUPERINTENDENT AND TREASURER,
ASSAYER,
COINER,

JULIUS M. PATTON.
ISAAC L. TODD.
JOHN D. FIELD, Jr.

6.—ASSAY OFFICE, NEW YORK.

SUPERINTENDENT,
TREASURER,
ASSAYER,
MELTER AND REFINER,

SAM F. BUTTERWORTH.
JOHN J. CISCO.
JOHN TORREY.
EDWARD N. KENT.

GENERAL MINT LAW.

AN ACT

SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE ACT, ENTITLED

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MINT AND REGULATING THE COINS OF THE UNITED STATES.”

SECTION 1.—Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the officers of the Mint of the United States shall be a Director, a Treasurer, an Assayer, a Melter and Refiner, a Chief Coiner and an Engraver, to be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Officers of the Mint.

How appointed.

SEC. 2.—And be it further enacted, That the respective duties of the officers of the Mint shall be as follows:

Their duties.

First. The Director shall have the control and management of the Mint, the superintendence of the officers and persons employed therein, and the general regulation and supervision of the business of the several branches. And in the month of January of every year* he shall make report to the President of the United States of the operations of the Mint, and its branches for the year preceding, and also to the Secretary of the Treasury, from time to time, as said Secretary shall require, setting forth all the operations of the Mint, subsequent to the last report made upon the subject.

1. Of the Director.

* (Now at end of fiscal year. See Sec. 7. Act of Feb. 21, 1857, page 51.)

2. Of the
Treasurer.

Second. The Treasurer shall receive, and safely keep, all moneys which shall be for the use and support of the Mint; shall keep all the current accounts of the Mint, and pay all moneys due by the Mint, on warrants from the Director. He shall receive all bullion brought to the Mint for coinage; shall be the keeper of all bullion and coin in the Mint, except while the same is legally placed in the hands of other officers; and shall, on warrants from the Director, deliver all coins struck at the Mint to the persons to whom they shall be legally payable. And he shall keep regular and faithful accounts of all the transactions of the Mint in bullion and coins, both with the officers of the Mint and the depositors; and shall present, quarter yearly, to the Treasury Department of the United States, according to such forms as shall be prescribed by that department, an account of the receipts and disbursements of the Mint, for the purpose of being adjusted and settled.

3. Of the
Assayer.

Third. The Assayer shall carefully assay all metals used in coinage, whenever such assays are required in the operations of the Mint; he shall also make assays of coins whenever instructed to do so by the Director.

4. Of the
Melter and
Refiner.

Fourth. The Melter and Refiner shall execute all the operations which are necessary in order to form ingots of standard silver or gold, suitable for the Chief Coiner, from the metals legally delivered to him for that purpose.

5. Of the
Chief Coiner.

Fifth. The Chief Coiner shall execute all the operations which are necessary in order to form coins, conformable in all respects to the law, from the standard silver and gold ingots, and the copper planchets, legally delivered to him for this purpose.

6. Of the
Engraver.

Sixth. The Engraver shall prepare and engrave, with the legal devices and inscriptions, all the dies used in the coinage of the Mint and its Branches.

Director to
appoint as
assistants and
clerks.

SEC. 3.—And be it further enacted, That the Director shall appoint, with the approbation of the President, assistants to the Assayer, Melter and Refiner, Chief

Coiner and Engraver, and clerks for the Director and [Treasurer]* whenever, on representation made by the Director to the President, it shall be the opinion of the President that such assistants or clerks are necessary. And it shall be the duty of the assistants to aid their principals in the execution of their respective offices, and of the clerks to perform such duties as shall be prescribed for them by the Director.

*(See Resolution March 3 1851, page 86.)

Their duties

SEC. 4.—And be it further enacted, That whenever any officer of the Mint shall be temporarily absent, on account of sickness, or any other sufficient cause, it shall be lawful for the Director, with the consent of the said officer, to appoint some person attached to the Mint to act in the place of such officer during his absence: and to employ such workmen and servants in the Mint as he shall from time to time find necessary.

Officers pro tempore.

Workmen and servants.

SEC. 5.—And be it further enacted, That every officer, assistant and clerk of the Mint, shall, before he enters upon the execution of his office, take an oath or affirmation before some judge of the United States, or judge of the superior court, or any court of record of any State, faithfully and diligently to perform the duties thereof.

Oath of office prescribed.

SEC. 6.—And be it further enacted, That the following officers of the Mint, before entering upon the execution of their respective offices, shall become bound to the United States, with one or more sureties, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury, in the sums hereinafter mentioned, with condition for the faithful and diligent performance of the duties of their offices, viz.:—The Treasurer in the sum of ten thousand dollars; the Assayer in the sum of five thousand dollars; the Melter and Refiner in the sum of ten thousand dollars; and the Chief Coiner in the sum of ten thousand dollars. And that similar bonds may also be required of the assistants and clerks, in such sums as the Director shall determine, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Bond and security required.

Salaries of
the officers,
assistants,
and clerks.

SEC. 7.—And be it further enacted, That there shall be allowed to the officers of the Mint the following salaries per annum:—To the Director, for his services, including travelling expenses incurred in visiting the different Branches, and all other charges whatever, three thousand five hundred dollars; to the Treasurer, Assayer, Melter and Refiner, Chief Coiner, and Engraver, each two thousand dollars; to the assistants and clerks, such annual salaries shall be allowed as the Director may determine, with the approbation of the

See page 50,
Act of August
4, 1854.

President:—Provided, That an assistant shall not receive more than fifteen hundred dollars, and that a clerk shall not receive more than twelve hundred

Wages of the
workmen
and servants.

dollars. To the workmen and servants shall be allowed such wages, to be determined by the Director, as may be customary and reasonable, according to their respective stations and occupations; and that the salaries provided for in this section shall be payable in quarterly instalments.

Standard for
gold and sil-
ver coins.

SECT. 8.—And be it further enacted, That the standard for both gold and silver coins of the United States shall hereafter be such, that of one thousand parts by weight, nine hundred shall be of pure metal, and one hundred of alloy; and the alloy of the silver coins shall be of copper, and the alloy of the gold coins shall be of copper and silver, provided that the silver do not exceed one-half of the whole alloy.

Alloys.

Weight of
silver coins.

SECT. 9.—And be it further enacted, That of the silver coins, the dollar shall be of the weight of four hundred and twelve and one-half grains; [the half dollar of the weight of two hundred and six and one-fourth grains; the quarter dollar of the weight of one hundred and three and one-eighth grains; the dime, or tenth part of a dollar, of the weight of forty-one and one-fourth grains; and the half dime, or twentieth part of a dollar, of the weight of twenty and five-eighths grains.] And that dollars, [half dollars, quarter dollars, dimes, and half dimes,] shall be legal tenders of

payment, according to their nominal value, for any sums whatever.*

SECT. 10.—And be it further enacted, That of the gold coins, the weight of the eagle shall be two hundred and fifty-eight grains; that of the half eagle one hundred and twenty-nine grains; and that of the quarter eagle sixty-four and one-half grains. And that, for all sums whatever, the eagle shall be a legal tender of payment for ten dollars; the half eagle for five dollars; and the quarter eagle for two and a half dollars.*

SECT. 11.—And be it further enacted, That the silver coins heretofore issued at the Mint of the United States, and the gold coins issued since the thirty-first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, shall continue to be legal tenders of payment for their nominal values, on the same terms as if they were of the coinage provided for by this act.

SECT. 12.—And be it further enacted, That of the copper coins, the weight of the cent shall be one hundred and sixty-eight grains, and the weight of the half cent eighty-four grains.* And the cent shall be considered of the value of one-hundredth part of a dollar, and the half cent of the value of one two-hundredth part of a dollar.

SECT. 13.—And be it further enacted, That upon the coins struck at the Mint, there shall be the following devices and legends: Upon one side of each of said coins, there shall be an impression emblematic of liberty, with an inscription of the word LIBERTY, and the year of the coinage; and upon the reverse of each of the gold and silver coins, there shall be the figure or representation of an eagle, with the inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and a designation of the value of the coin; but on the reverse of the dime and half dime, cent and half cent, the figure of the eagle shall be omitted.*

SECT. 14.—And be it further enacted, That gold and silver bullion, brought to the mint for coinage, shall be

*See pages 41 and 42. Acts of Feb. 21, '53, Mar. 3, 1851. Weight of gold coins.

*See pages 40 and 42. Acts of Mar. 3, '49, Feb. 21, 1853.

What coins of old standard are legal tender.

Weight of copper coins. * See page 51, Act of Feb. 21, 1857.

Their value. Coinage of the half cent discontinued under the provisions of the Act of Feb. 21, 1857, which, see page 51.

Devices and legends on the coins.

* See pages 42 and 43. Acts of Feb. 21 and Mar. 3, 1853.

Deposits of bullion to be received for

coinage on
certain con-
ditions.

received and coined by the proper officers, for the benefit of the depositor: Provided, That it shall be lawful to refuse, at the Mint, any deposit of less value than one hundred dollars, and any bullion so base as to be unsuitable for the operations of the Mint: And provided, also, That when gold and silver are combined, if either of these metals be in such small proportion that it cannot be separated advantageously, no allowance shall be made to the depositor for the value of such metal.

Receipt to be
given for
bullion by
Treasurer.

SECT. 15.—And be it further enacted, That when bullion is brought to the Mint for coinage, it shall be weighed by the Treasurer, in the presence of the depositor, when practicable, and a receipt given, which shall state the description and weight of the bullion: Provided, That when the bullion is in such a state as to require melting before its value can be ascertained, the weight after melting shall be considered as the true weight of the bullion deposited.

Bullion to be
assayed.

SECT. 16.—And be it further enacted, That from every parcel of bullion deposited for coinage, the Treasurer shall deliver to the Assayer a sufficient portion for the purpose of being assayed; but all such bullion remaining from the operations of the assay, shall be returned to the Treasurer by the Assayer.

Assayer to
report to
Treasurer.

SECT. 17.—And be it further enacted, That the Assayer shall report to the Treasurer the quality or standard of the bullion assayed by him; and he shall also communicate to the Treasurer such information as will enable him to estimate the amount of the charges hereinafter provided for, to be made to the depositor, for the expenses of converting the bullion into standard metal fit for coinage.

Charges to
depositor.

SECT. 18.—And be it further enacted, That the only subject of charge by the Mint to the depositor, shall be the following:—For refining, when the bullion is below

* See page 44,
Act of Feb.
21, 1853.

standard; for toughening, when metals are contained in it which render it unfit for coinage; for copper used

for alloy, when the bullion is above standard ; for silver introduced into the alloy of gold ; and for separating the gold and silver, when these metals exist together in the bullion ; and that the rate of these charges shall be fixed, from time to time, by the Director, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, so as not to exceed, in their judgment, the actual expense to the Mint of the materials and labor employed in each of the cases aforementioned ; and that the amount received from these charges shall be accounted for, and appropriated for defraying the contingent expenses of the Mint.

Rate thereof, how to be fixed.

Amount thereof appropriated to contingent expenses of the Mint.

SEC. 19.—And be it further enacted, That from the report of the Assayer and the weight of the bullion, the Treasurer shall estimate the whole value of each deposit, and also the amount of the charges or deductions, if any ; of all which he shall give a detailed memorandum to the depositor ; and he shall also give at the same time, under his hand, a certificate of the net amount of the deposit, to be paid in coins of the same species of bullion as that deposited.

Memorandum and certificate to be given to depositors.

SEC. 20.—And be it further enacted, That parcels of bullion shall be, from time to time, transferred by the Treasurer to the Melter and Refiner ; that a careful record of these transfers, noting the weight and character of the bullion shall be kept ; and that the bullion thus placed in the hands of the Melter and Refiner, shall be subjected to the several processes which may be necessary to form it into ingots of the legal standard, and of a quality suitable for coinage.

Melter and Refiner to have bullion transferred to him by Treasurer, and to prepare standard ingots therefrom.

SEC. 21.—And be it further enacted, That the ingots thus prepared shall be assayed by the Assayer, and if they prove to be within the limits allowed for deviation from the standard, they shall be transferred by the Melter and Refiner to the Treasurer, accompanied by the Assayer's certificate of their fineness ; and that a careful record of the transfer shall be kept by the Treasurer.

Ingots to be assayed, and if reported legal, to be transferred to Treasurer.

Allowed variations from standard in the ingots.

SEC. 22.—And be it further enacted, That no ingots of gold shall be used for coinage, of which the quality differs more than two thousandths from the legal standard; and that no ingots of silver shall be used for coinage, of which the quality differs more than three thousandths from the legal standard.*

* See page 41, Act of Mar. 3, 1851.

Accounts with Melter and Refiner.

Sec. 23.—And be it further enacted, That in the Treasurer's account with the Melter and Refiner, the Melter and Refiner shall be debited with the standard weight of all the bullion placed in his hands, that is to say, with the weight of metal of legal standard fineness which it will make; and that he shall be credited by the standard weight of all the ingots delivered by him to the Treasurer; and that once at least in every year, at such time as the Director shall appoint, the Melter and Refiner shall deliver up to the Treasurer all the bullion in his possession, in order that his accounts may be settled up to that time; and, in this settlement, he shall be entitled to a credit for the difference between the whole amount of bullion delivered to him and received from him, since the last settlement as an allowance for necessary waste; Provided, That this allowance shall not exceed two thousandths of the whole amount of gold and silver bullion respectively, that had been delivered to him by the Treasurer.

Settlements thereof.

Allowance for wastage.

Chief Coiner to have ingots delivered to him by Treasurer, and to coin the same.

SEC. 24.—And be it further enacted, That the Treasurer shall, from time to time, deliver over to the Chief Coiner, ingots for the purpose of coinage; that he shall keep a careful record of these transfers, noting the weight and description of the ingots; and that the ingots thus placed in the hands of the Chief Coiner shall be passed through the several processes necessary to make from them coins in all respects conformable to law.

Allowed variations from the standard weights of the coins.

SEC. 25.—And be it further enacted, That in adjusting the weight of the coins, the following deviations from the standard weight shall not be exceeded in any of the single pieces:—In the dollar and half dollar

one grain and a half; in the quarter dollar, one grain; in the dime and half dime, half a grain; in the gold coins, one quarter of a grain; in the copper coins, one grain in the pennyweight; and that in weighing a large number of pieces together, when delivered from the Chief Coiner to the Treasurer, and from the Treasurer to the depositors, the deviations from the standard weight shall not exceed the following limits:* Four pennyweights in one thousand dollars; three pennyweights in one thousand half dollars; two pennyweights in one thousand quarter dollars; one pennyweight in one thousand dimes; one pennyweight in one thousand half dimes; two pennyweights in one thousand eagles; one and a half pennyweight in one thousand half eagles; one pennyweight in one thousand quarter eagles.

SEC. 26.—And be it further enacted, That the Chief Coiner shall, from time to time, as the coins are prepared, deliver them over to the Treasurer, who shall keep a careful record of their kind, number and weight; and that in receiving the coins it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to see whether the coins of that delivery are within the legal limits of the standard weight; and if his trials for this purpose shall not prove satisfactory, he shall cause all the coins of this delivery to be weighed separately, and such as are not of legal weight shall be delivered to the Melter and Refiner, as standard bullion, to be again formed into ingots and recoined.

SEC. 27.—And be it further enacted, That at every delivery of coins made by the Chief Coiner to the Treasurer, it shall be the duty of the Treasurer, in the presence of the Assayer, to take, indiscriminately, a certain number of pieces of each variety for the annual trial of coins, (the number being prescribed by the Director,) which shall be carefully labelled and deposited in a chest appropriated for the purpose, kept under the joint care of the Treasurer and Assayer, and so secured that neither can have access to its contents without the presence of the other.

* See pages 40 and 41. Acts of Mar. 3, '49, Mar. 3, 1861.

Chief Coiner shall deliver the coins to the Treasurer, who shall test the legal weight thereof.

Coins to be reserved for the annual assay.

Clippings,
&c., how dis-
posed of.

SEC. 28.—And be it further enacted, That the Chief Coiner shall, from time to time, deliver to the Treasurer the clippings and other portions of bullion remaining after the process of coining, and that the Treasurer shall keep a careful record of their amount.

Account
with Chief
Coiner.

SEC. 29.—And be it further enacted, That in the Treasurer's account with the Chief Coiner, the Chief Coiner shall be debited with the amount in weight of standard metal of all the bullion placed in his hands, and credited with the amount, also by weight, of all the coins, clippings, and other bullion delivered by him to the Treasurer; and that once at least in every year, at

Settlement
thereof.

such time as the Director shall appoint, the Chief Coiner shall deliver to the Treasurer all the coins and bullion in his possession, so that his accounts may be settled up to that time; and, in this settlement, he shall be entitled to a credit for the difference between the whole amount of ingots delivered to him, and of the coins and bullion received from him, since the last settlement, as an allowance for necessary waste: Provided, That this allowance shall not exceed two thousandths of the whole amount of the silver, or one and one-half thousandths of the whole amount of the gold, that had been delivered to him by the Treasurer.

Allowance
for wastage.

Depositors,
how and
when to be
paid.

SEC. 30.—And be it further enacted, That when the coins which are the equivalent to any deposit of bullion are ready for delivery, they shall be paid over to the depositor, or his order, by the Treasurer, on a warrant from the Director; and the payments shall be made, if demanded, in the order in which the bullion shall have been brought to the Mint, giving priority according to priority of deposit only; and that in the denominations of coin delivered, the Treasurer shall comply with the wishes of the depositor, unless when impracticable or inconvenient to do so, in which case the denominations of coin shall be designated by the Director.

SEC. 31.—And be it further enacted, That for the purpose of enabling the Mint to make the returns to depositors with as little delay as possible, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to keep in the said Mint, when the state of the Treasury will admit thereof, a deposit of such amount of public money, or of bullion procured for the purpose, as he shall judge convenient and necessary, not exceeding one million of dollars, out of which those who bring bullion to the Mint may be paid the value thereof, as soon as practicable after this value has been ascertained; that the bullion so deposited shall become the property of the United States; that no discount or interest shall be charged on money so advanced; and that the Secretary of the Treasury may at any time withdraw the said deposit, or any part thereof, or may, at his discretion, allow the coins formed at the Mint to be given for their equivalent in other money.*

Public Money to be deposited in Mint to secure prompt payment to depositors.

* See page 45, Act of May 23, 1850. Annual assay of coins.

SEC. 32.—And be it further enacted, That to secure a due conformity in the gold and silver coins to their respective standards and weights, an annual trial shall be made of the pieces reserved for this purpose at the Mint and its Branches, before the judge of the district court of the United States for the eastern district of Pennsylvania, the attorney of the United States for the eastern district of Pennsylvania, and the collector of the port of Philadelphia, and such other persons as the President shall from time to time designate for that purpose, who shall meet as commissioners for the performance of this duty, on the second Monday in February annually, and may continue their meetings by adjournment, if necessary; and if a majority of the commissioners shall fail to attend at any time appointed for their meeting, then the Director of the Mint shall call a meeting of the commissioners at such other time as he may deem convenient; and that before these commissioners or a majority of them, and in the presence of the officers of the Mint, such examination shall be made of the

reserved pieces as shall be judged sufficient; and if it shall appear that these pieces do not differ from the standard fineness and weight by a greater quantity than is allowed by law, the trial shall be considered and reported as satisfactory; but if any greater deviation from the legal standard or weight shall appear, this fact shall be certified to the President of the United States, and if, on a view of the circumstances of the case, he shall so decide, the officer or officers implicated in the error shall be thenceforward disqualified from holding their respective offices.

Treasurer
shall purchase copper
bullion in
planchets.

SECT. 33.—And be it further enacted, That copper bullion shall be purchased for the Mint, from time to time, by the Treasurer, under instructions from the Director: that the cost shall be paid from the fund hereinafter provided for; and that the copper bullion shall be of good quality, and in the form of planchets, fit for passing at once into the hands of the Chief Coiner.*

* See page 51,
Act of Feb.
21, 1867.
Which shall
be coined.

SECT. 34.—And be it further enacted, That the copper planchets shall be delivered, from time to time, by the Treasurer to the Chief Coiner, to be by him coined; and all such copper shall be returned to the Treasurer by the Chief Coiner, weight for weight, without allowance for waste.

And sold to
applicants
therefor.

SECT. 35.—And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Treasurer of the Mint to deliver the copper coins in exchange for their legal equivalent in other money, to any persons who shall apply for them: Provided, That the sum asked for, be not less than a certain amount to be determined by the Director, and that it be not so great as in his judgment, to interfere with the capacity of the Mint to supply other applicants.

Copper coins
may be sent
to distant
places in the
U. States, at
cost of Mint.

SECT. 36.—And be it further enacted, That the copper coins may, at the discretion of the Director, be delivered in any of the principal cities and towns of the United States, at the cost of the Mint for transportation.

SECT. 37.—And be it further enacted, That the money received by the Treasurer in exchange for copper coins shall form a fund in his hands, which shall be used to purchase copper planchets, and to pay the expenses of transportation of copper coins; and that if there be a surplus, the same shall be appropriated to defray the contingent expenses of the Mint.*

Of the fund reserved from copper coins.

*The sections relating to copper coinage are modified by the Act of Feb. 21, 1867, which. see page 61.

SECT. 38.—And be it further enacted, That all acts or parts of acts heretofore passed, relating to the Mint and coins of the United States, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this act, be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Repealing clause.

APPROVED, Jan'y 18th, 1837.

OTHER LEGAL PROVISIONS

RELATIVE TO THE

MINT AND COINAGE.

I.

PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

Constitutional provisions as to coinage and legal tender.

The Congress shall have power—To coin money; regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coins; and fix the standard of weights and measures. (Art. 1, Sec. 8.)

No state shall coin money, or make anything but gold and silver a legal tender in payment of debts. (Art. 1, Sec. 10.)

II.

ESTABLISHMENT AND LOCATION OF THE MINT.

Establishment and location of the Mint.

Be it enacted, &c.,—That a Mint, for the purpose of a national coinage, be, and the same is established, to be situate and carried on at the seat of government of the United States, for the time being. (Act of April 2d, 1792: the seat of government being then at Philadelphia.)

Be it enacted, &c.,—That until the 4th day of March, 1801, the Mint shall remain in the City of Philadelphia, and be carried on as heretofore, under the laws now in

force, any law to the contrary, notwithstanding. (Act of May 14th, 1800.)

Be it enacted, &c.,—That the Mint shall remain in Philadelphia, until the 4th day of March, in the year 1803. (Act of March 3d, 1801.)

This act was revived and continued in force and operation, for successive periods of five years, until the 4th of March, 1828, when the location of the Mint at Philadelphia was made permanent, by the following enactment:

Be it enacted, &c.,—That the act entitled “An Act concerning the mint,” approved March the third, one thousand eight hundred and one, be, and the same hereby is revived and continued in force and operation until otherwise provided by law. (Act of May 19th, 1828, Sec. 1.)

III.

DENOMINATIONS, VALUES, AND DESCRIPTIONS OF THE COINS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Be it enacted, &c.,—That there shall be, from time to time, struck and coined at the said Mint, coins of gold, silver, and copper of the following denominations, values, and descriptions, viz.: Eagles: each to be of the value of ten dollars, or units. * * * * Half eagles: each to be of the value of five dollars. * * * * Quarter eagles: each to be of the value of two dollars and a half dollar. * * * * Dollars, or units: each to be of the value of a Spanish milled dollar, as the same is now current. * * * Half dollars: each to be of the value of the dollar, or unit. * * * * Quarter dollars: each to be of one-fourth the value of the dollar, or unit. * * * * Dimes: each to be of the value of one-tenth of a dollar, or unit. * * * * Half dimes: each to be of the value of one-twenty.

Cents. tieth of a dollar. * * * * Cents: each to be of the value of the one-hundredth part of a dollar. * * * *

Half cents. Half cents: each to be of the value of half a cent.

* See pages 40, 41 and 42, Acts of Mar. 3, '49, Mar. 3, '51, Feb. 21, 1853. * * * * (Act of April 2d, 1792, Sect. 9.* We have substituted asterisks for those parts of this section which are now obsolete, relating to the standard and weight of the coins. Sufficient particulars on this subject may be found under the head relating to the "Old standards and weights of coins, p. 36.)

IV.

MONEY OF ACCOUNT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Money of account of the United States.

Be it enacted, &c.,—That the money of account of the United States shall be expressed in dollars or units, dimes or tenths, cents or hundredths, and mills or thousandths; a dime being the tenth part of a dollar, a cent the hundredth part of a dollar, a mill the thousandth part of a dollar; and that all accounts in the public offices, and all proceedings in the courts of the United States, shall be kept and had in conformity to this regulation. (Act of April 2d, 1792, Sec. 20.)

V.

COPPER COINS CURRENT.

Copper coins current.

Be it enacted, &c.,—That after the expiration of six calendar months from the time when there shall have been paid into the treasury, by the said Director, in cents and half cents, a sum not less than fifty thousand dollars,—which time shall forthwith be announced by the Treasurer in at least two gazettes or newspapers, published at the seat of the government of the United States, for the time being,—no copper coins or pieces

whatsoever, except the said cents and half cents, shall pass current as money, or shall be paid or offered to be paid, or received in payment for any debt, demand, claim, matter or thing whatsoever, and all copper coins or pieces, except the said cents and half cents, which shall be paid or offered to be paid, or received in payment, contrary to the prohibition aforesaid, shall be forfeited; and every person by whom any of them shall have been so paid or offered to be paid, or received in payment, shall also forfeit the sum of ten dollars; and said forfeiture and penalty shall and may be recovered with costs of suit, for the benefit of any person by whom information of the incurring thereof shall have been given. (Act of May 8th, 1792, Sec. 2. The announcement required having been duly made by the Treasurer of the United States, this enactment is in full force.)

VI.

FOREIGN COINS CURRENT.

And be it further enacted, &c.,—That all foreign gold and silver coins, (except Spanish milled dollars and parts of such dollars,) which shall be received in payment for moneys due to the United States, after the said time when the coinage of gold and silver coins shall begin at the Mint of the United States, shall, previously to their being issued in circulation, be coined anew, in conformity to the Act, entitled, “An act establishing a Mint, and regulating the coins of the United States.” (Act of Feb. 9, 1793, § 3.)

Foreign coins paid to the United States to be recoined before being issued into circulation.

SEC. 1.—Be it enacted, &c.,—That from and after the thirty-first day of July next, the following gold coins shall pass current as money within the United States, and be receivable in all payments, by weight, for the

Rate at which gold coins of Portugal, Brazil, Spain, Mexico, and Colombia, shall pass current.

payment of all debts and demands, at the rates following; that is to say,—the gold coins of [Great Britain,] Portugal, and Brazil, of not less than twenty-two carats fine, at the rate of ninety-four cents and eight-tenths of a cent per pennyweight; [the gold coins of France, nine-tenths fine, at the rate of ninety-three cents and one-tenth of a cent pennyweight]; and the gold coins of Spain, Mexico, and Colombia, of the fineness of twenty carats, three grains and seven-sixteenths of a grain, at the rate of eighty-nine cents and nine-tenths of a cent per pennyweight.*

* Repealed
by 3d Sect.
Act of Feb.
21, 1857, page
51.

Such coins to
be assayed
annually.

Repealed and
supplied by
the 3d section
of Act of Feb.
21, 1857, p. 51.

SEC. 2.—And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to cause assays of the aforesaid gold coins, made current by this act, to be had at the mint of the United States, at least once in every year, and to make report of the result thereof to Congress. (Act of June 28th, 1834.)

Rate at
which silver
coins of Chili,
Central
America and
Brazil, shall
pass current.

SEC. 1.—Be it enacted, &c.,—That from and after the passage of this act, the following silver coins shall be of the legal value, and shall pass current as money within the United States, by tale, for the payment of all debts and demands, at the rate of one hundred cents the dollar; that is to say,—the dollars of Mexico, Peru, Chili, and Central America, of not less weight than four hundred and fifteen grains each; and those re-stamped in Brazil of the like weight; and of not less fineness than ten ounces fifteen pennyweights pure silver in the Troy pound of twelve ounces of standard silver. And the five-franc pieces of France, when of not less fineness than ten ounces and sixteen pennyweights, in twelve ounces Troy weight of standard silver, and weighing not less than three hundred and eighty-four grains each, at the rate of ninety-three cents each.*

* Repealed
by the 3d
Sect., Act of
Feb. 21, 1857,
page 51.

SEC. 2.—And be it further enacted, That it shall be

the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to cause assays of the aforesaid silver coins made current by this act, to be had at the Mint of the United States, at least once in every year, and to make report of the result thereof to Congress. (Act of June 25th, 1834.)

Such coins to be assayed annually.

Supplied by Act of Feb. 21, 1853, p. 51

SEC. 1.—Be it enacted, &c.,—That from and after the passage of this act, the following foreign gold coins shall pass current as money within the United States, and be receivable, by weight, for the payments of all debts and demands, at the rates following, that is to say: the gold coins of Great Britain, of not less than nine hundred and fifteen and a half thousandths in fineness, at ninety-four cents and six-tenths of a cent per pennyweight; and the gold coins of France, of not less than eight hundred and ninety-nine thousandths in fineness, at ninety-two cents and nine-tenths of a cent per pennyweight.

Rate at which gold coins of Great Britain and France shall pass current.

Supplied by Act of Feb. 21, 1853, p. 51

SEC. 2.—And be it further enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, the following foreign silver coins shall pass current as money within the United States, and be receivable, by tale, for the payment of all debts and demands, at the rates following, that is to say: the Spanish pillar dollars, and the dollars of Mexico, Peru and Bolivia, of not less than eight hundred and ninety-seven thousandths in fineness, and four hundred and fifteen grains in weight, at one hundred cents each; and the five-franc pieces of France,* of not less than nine hundred thousandths in fineness, and three hundred and eighty-four grains in weight, at ninety-three cents each.*

Rate at which silver coins of Spain, Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, and France shall pass current.

* See page 24, Act of May 22, '46, as to franc.

* Repealed by 3rd Sect. Act of Feb. 21, 1857, page 51.

SEC. 3.—And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to cause assays of the coins, made current by this act, to be had at the Mint of the United States, at least once in every year, and to make report of the result thereof to Congress. (Act of March 3, 1843, c. 69.)

Such coins to be assayed annually.

Repealed and supplied by Act of Feb. 21, 1853, p. 51

Rate of computation at the custom houses of the thaler of Prussia, the mil-reis of Portugal, the rix-dollar of Bremen, the thaler of Bremen, the mil r. li. of Madeira, the mil-reis of the Azores, the marc-banco of Hamburg, the rouble of Russia, and the rupee of British India.

Be it enacted, &c., That in all computations of the value of foreign moneys of account at the custom houses of the United States, the thaler of Prussia shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of sixty-eight and one half cents; the mil-reis of Portugal shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of one hundred and twelve cents; the rix dollar of Bremen shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of seventy eight and three-quarter cents; the thaler of Bremen, of seventy-two grotes, shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of seventy-one cents; that the mil-reis of Madeira shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of one hundred cents; the mil-reis of the Azores shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of eighty-three and one-third cents; the marcbanco of Hamburg shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of thirty-five cents; the rouble of Russia shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of seventy-five cents; the rupee of British India shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of fifty four and one-half cents; and all former laws inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed. (Act of March 3, 1843, c. 92.)

Rate of computation at the custom houses of the specie dollar of Sweden, Norway, and Denmark; thaler of Prussia and Northern States of Germany; florin of Austria and Augsburg; lira of Lombardo-Venetian kingdom and Tuscany; franc of France and Belgium; ducat of Naples; ounce of Sicily; pound of Nova Scotia, New Bruns-

Be it enacted, &c., That in all computations at the custom houses, the foreign coins and moneys of account herein specified shall be estimated as follows, to wit:—The specie dollar of Sweden and Norway at one hundred and six cents. The specie dollar of Denmark at one hundred and five cents. The thaler of Prussia and of the Northern States of Germany at sixty-nine cents. The florin of the Southern States of Germany at forty cents. The florin of the Austrian Empire and of the city of Augsburg, at forty-eight and one-half cents. The lira of the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom, and the lira of Tuscany at sixteen cents. The franc of France and of Belgium, and the lira of Sardinia at eighteen cents six mills. The ducat of Naples at eighty cents. The ounce of Sicily at two dollars and forty

cents. The pound of the British provinces of Nova ^{wick, New-}foundland, and Canada, ^{and Canada.} at four dollars. And all laws inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed. (Act of May 22d, 1846.)

VII.

OLD STANDARDS AND WEIGHTS OF COINS.

SILVER COINS.

Be it enacted, &c., That the standard for all silver ^{Old standards and weights of silver coins.} coins of the United States shall be one thousand four hundred and eighty-five parts fine, to one hundred and seventy-nine parts alloy; and accordingly, that one thousand four hundred and eighty-five parts, in one thousand six hundred and sixty-four parts of the entire weight of each of said coins, shall consist of pure silver, and the remaining one hundred and seventy-nine parts of alloy, which alloy shall be wholly of copper. (Act of April 2d, 1792, Sect. 13.)—[This standard corresponds to 892.4 thousandths, nearly.]

By Sect. 9 of the same act, the weight of the dollar is fixed at four hundred and sixteen grains of the above standard, and the weight of the parts of the dollar in proportion.

This standard and weight were retained until the end of the year 1836, and the coins of this period are still legal tenders of payment.

GOLD COINS.

Be it enacted, &c., That the standard for all gold ^{Old standard and weights of gold coins.} coins of the United States shall be eleven parts fine, to one part alloy; and accordingly, that eleven parts in every twelve of the entire weight of each of the said coins shall consist of pure gold, and the remaining one twelfth part of alloy; and the said alloy shall be com-

posed of silver and copper, not exceeding one half silver, as shall be found convenient. (Act of April 2d, 1792, part of Sec. 12.)

This standard corresponds to twenty-two carats, or to $916\frac{2}{3}$ thousandths.

By Sect. 9 of the same act, the weight of the eagle was fixed at two hundred and seventy grains, and the weight of the half and quarter eagle in proportion.

This standard and weight were retained until the end of July, 1834, when the following enactments came into force.

Be it enacted, &c., That the gold coins of the United States shall contain the following quantities of metal; that is to say,—each eagle shall contain two hundred and thirty-two grains of pure gold, and two hundred and fifty-eight grains of standard gold; each half eagle, one hundred and sixteen grains of pure gold, and one hundred and twenty-nine grains of standard gold; each quarter eagle shall contain fifty eight grains of pure gold, and sixty-four and a half grains of standard gold. Every such eagle shall be of the value of ten dollars; every such half eagle shall be of the value of five dollars; and every such quarter eagle shall be of the value of two dollars and fifty cents. And the said gold coins shall be received in all payments, when of full weight, according to their said respective values; and, when of less than full weight, at less values, proportioned to their respective actual weights. (Act of June 28th, 1834, Sect. 1.)

Be it further enacted, That all gold coins of the United States, minted anterior to the thirty-first day of June next, shall be receivable in all payments at the rate of ninety-four and eight-tenths of a cent per penny-weight. (Sect. 3 of the same act.)

The above standard, which corresponds to 21 carats $21\frac{1}{3}$ grains, 899.225 thousandths, continued until the act of January, 1837, when it was changed to 900 thousandths. The weights of the gold coins were not, how-

ever, altered; and all gold coins made after July 31st, 1834, are legal tenders, according to their nominal values.

VIII.

AGAINST COUNTERFEITING, IMPAIRING OR LIGHTENING THE COINS.

Be it enacted, &c., That if any person or persons shall falsely make, forge, or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be falsely made, forged or counterfeited, or willingly aid or assist in falsely making, forging, or counterfeiting, any coin in resemblance or similitude of the gold or silver coin which has been, or hereafter may be coined at the Mint of the United States; or in the resemblance or similitude of any foreign gold or silver coin which by law now is, or hereafter may be made current in the United States; or shall pass, utter, publish, or sell, or attempt to pass, utter, publish, or sell, or bring into the United States from any foreign place, with intent to pass, utter, publish, or sell, as true, any such false, forged, or counterfeited coin, knowing the same to be false, forged or counterfeited, with intent to defraud any body, politic or corporate, or any other person or persons whatsoever; every person, so offending, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and shall on conviction thereof, be punished by fine, not exceeding five thousand dollars, and by imprisonment and confinement at hard labor, not exceeding ten years, according to the aggravation of the offence.

Making or uttering counterfeit gold or silver coins.

Penalty therefor.

And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall falsely make, forge or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be falsely made, forged, or counterfeited, or willingly aid or assist in falsely making, forging or counterfeiting any coin in the resemblance or similitude of any copper coin which has been, or hereafter may be, coined at the Mint of the United States; or shall

Making or uttering counterfeit copper coins.

pass, utter, publish, or sell; or bring into the United States from any foreign place, with intent to pass, utter, publish, or sell, as true, any such false, forged, or counterfeited coin, with intent to defraud any body politic or corporate, or any person or persons whatsoever; every person so offending shall be deemed guilty of felony, and shall, on conviction thereof, be punished by fine, not exceeding one thousand dollars, and by imprisonment, and confinement to hard labor, not exceeding three years. (Act of March 3d, 1825, Sect. 20, 21.)

Penalty
therefor.

Impairing,
lightening,
&c. the coins.

Penalty
therefor.

And be it further enacted, That if any person shall fraudulently and for gain's sake, by any art, way, or means, whatsoever, impair, diminish, falsify, scale, or lighten, the gold or silver coins, which have been, or which shall hereafter be coined at the Mint of the United States, or any foreign gold or silver coins, which are by law made current, or are in actual use and circulation, as money, within the United States; every person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and shall be imprisoned not exceeding two years, and fined not exceeding two thousand dollars. (Act of April 21st, 1806, Sect. 3.)

IX.

AGAINST OFFENCES AT THE MINT.

Debasing the
coins by per-
sons employ-
ed in the
Mint, or em-
bezzling the
metals or
coins.

Be it enacted, &c., That if any of the gold or silver coins, which shall be struck or coined at the Mint of the United States, shall be debased, or made worse as to the proportion of fine gold or fine silver therein contained; or shall be of less weight or value than the same ought to be, pursuant to the several acts relative thereto, through the default or connivance of any of the officers or persons who shall be employed at the said Mint, for the purpose of profit or gain, or otherwise, with a fraudulent intent; and if any of the said officers

or persons shall embezzle any of the metals which shall at any time, be committed to their charge for the purpose of being coined, or any of the coins which shall be struck, or coined at the said Mint, every such officer or person who shall commit any, or either of the said offences, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and shall be sentenced to imprisonment and hard labor, for a term not less than one year, nor more than ten years, and shall be fined in a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars. ^{Penalty therefor}
(Act of March 3d, 1825, Sect. 24.)

X.

STANDARD WEIGHTS OF THE MINT.

Be it enacted, &c., That, for the purpose of securing a due conformity in weight of the coins of the United States, to the provisions of the ninth section of the act, passed the second of April, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, entitled "An Act establishing a Mint, and regulating the coins of the United States," the brass Troy pound weight procured by the minister of the United States, at London, in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, for the use of the Mint, and now in the custody of the Director thereof, shall be the standard Troy pound of the Mint of the United States, conformably to which the coinage thereof shall be regulated. ^{Standard Troy pound of the Mint declared.}

And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Director of the Mint to procure, and safely to keep, a series of standard weights corresponding to the aforesaid Troy pound, consisting of a one pound weight and the requisite sub-divisions and multiples thereof, from the hundredth part of a grain to twenty-five pounds; and that the Troy weights ordinarily employed in the transactions of the Mint, shall be regulated according to the above standards, at least once in every ^{Corresponding weights to be procured for the Mint, and tested at the annual assay.}

year, under his inspection, and their accuracy tested annually in the presence of the Assay Commissioners, on the day of the annual assay. (Act of May 19th, 1828, Sect. 2, 3.)

XI.

ASSAY OF BULLION NOT INTENDED FOR COINAGE.

Bullion not
to be coined
may be assayed
at the
Mint.

Be it enacted, &c., That it shall be lawful for the Director of the Mint to receive, and cause to be assayed, bullion not intended for coinage, and to cause certificates to be given of the fineness thereof, by such officer as he shall designate for that purpose, at such rates of charge, to be paid by the owner of said bullion, and under such regulations as the said Director may from time to time establish. (Act of May 19th, 1828, Sec. 7.)

XII.

UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS.

Unexpended
appropriations
how
disposed of.

Be it enacted, &c., That in regard to any sum which shall have remained unexpended upon any appropriation, (other than for the payment of interest on funded debt; for the payment of interest upon, and reimbursement, according to contract, of any loan or loans made on account of the United States; for the purpose of the sinking fund; or for a purpose, in respect to which a longer duration is specially assigned by law;) for more than two years after the expiration of the calendar year in which the act of appropriation shall have been passed, such appropriation shall be deemed to have ceased and been determined: and the sum so unexpended shall be carried to an account, on the books of the Treasury, to be denominated "The Surplus Fund," &c. (Act of March 3d, 1795, Sec. 16.)

XIII.

ACT TO ESTABLISH BRANCHES OF THE MINT
OF THE UNITED STATES.

Be it enacted, &c., That branches of the Mint of ^{Branch} the United States shall be established as follows: one ^{Mints estab-} branch at the city of New Orleans for the coinage of ^{lished at New} gold and silver; one branch at the town of Charlotte ^{Orleans,} in Mecklenburg county in the State of North Carolina, ^{Charlotte} for the coinage of gold only: and one Branch at or near ^{and Dah-} Dahlonega in Lumpkin county, in the State of Georgia, ^{lonega.} also for the coinage of gold only. And for the purpose of purchasing sites, erecting suitable buildings, and completing the necessary combinations of machinery for the several branches aforesaid, the following sums to be paid out of any money in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, shall be and are hereby appropriated: for the branch at New Orleans, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars; for the branch at Charlotte, fifty thousand dollars; and for the branch at Dahlonega, fifty thousand dollars.

SEC. 2.—And be it further enacted, That so soon ^{Officers} as the necessary buildings are erected, for the well ^{thereof.} conducting the business of each of the said branches, the following officers shall be appointed upon the nomination of the President, and with the advice and consent of the Senate:—one Superintendent, one Treasurer, one Assayer, one Chief Coiner, one Melter, and one Refiner.* And the Superintendent of each Mint shall engage and employ as many clerks, and as many subordinate workmen and servants as shall be provided for by law; and the salaries of the said officers and clerks shall be as follows:—For the Branch Mint at New Orleans; to the superintendent, the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars; to the Treasurer the sum of two thousand dollars; to the Chief Coiner, the

* See page 33,
Act of Feb.
13, 1837.

sum of two thousand dollars; to the Assayer, Melter and Refiner, the sum of two thousand dollars each; to two clerks the sum of twelve hundred dollars each; to the subordinate workmen and servants, not exceeding twenty in number, such wages and allowances as are customary and reasonable, according to their respective stations and occupations. For the Branches at Charlotte and Dahlonega; to the Superintendents, each the sum of two thousand dollars, who shall respectively discharge the duty of Treasurers; to the Chief Coiners each the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars; to the Assayers, Melters and Refiners, each the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars; to the clerks, not exceeding one at each Branch, the sum of one thousand dollars; and to the subordinate workmen and servants, not exceeding the number of five at each of the said Branches, such wages and allowances shall be paid as are customary and reasonable, according to their respective stations and occupations. And for the purpose of paying the said salaries, wages, allowances, and the incidental expenses of the said Branches of the Mint for the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, the following sums, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, be, and the same hereby are appropriated; for the Branch at New Orleans, the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars; for the Branches at Charlotte and Dahlonega, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars each.

Oath of
officers.

Bond and
security
required.

SEC. 3.—And be it further enacted, That the officers and clerks to be appointed under this act, before entering upon the duties thereof, shall take an oath or affirmation, before some judge of the United States, faithfully and diligently to perform the duties thereof; and shall each become bound to the United States of America, with one or more sureties to the satisfaction of the Director of the Mint, and the Secretary of the Treasury, with conditions for the faithful and diligent performance

of the duties of their offices. (This section is amended by act of April 2, 1844, See p. 35.)

SEC. 4.—And be it further enacted, That the general direction of the business of the said Branches of the Mint of the United States shall be under the control and regulation of the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, subject to the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury; and for that purpose it shall be the duty of the said Director to prescribe such regulations, and require such returns, periodically and occasionally, as shall appear to him to be necessary, for the purpose of carrying into effect the intention of this act in establishing the said Branches: also, for the purpose of discriminating the coins which shall be stamped at each Branch, and at the Mint itself: also, for the purpose of preserving uniformity of weight, form, and fineness, in the coins stamped at each place. And for that purpose, to require the transmission and delivery to him at the Mint, from time to time, of such parcels of the coinage of each branch as he shall think proper, to be subjected to such assays and tests as he shall direct.

Director of the Mint at Philadelphia to have general control of the Branch Mints; his duties for that purpose.

SEC. 5.—And be it further enacted, That all the laws, and parts of laws, made for the regulation of the Mint of the United States, and for the government of the officers and persons employed therein, and for the punishment of all offences connected with the Mint or coinage of the United States, shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be, in full force, in relation to each of the Branches of the Mint, by this act established, so far as the same shall be applicable thereto. (Act of March 3d, 1835.)

Laws for the regulation of the Mint of the United States, extended to the Branches.

XIV.

AMENDMENTS TO THE FOREGOING ACT ESTABLISHING BRANCH MINTS.

Be it enacted, &c., That the officers of the Branch

Amendment
declaring the
officers of
the Branch
Mints; their
duties and
salaries.

* See follow-
ing Act of
Feb. 27, '43.

Mint at New Orleans shall be one Superintendent, one Treasurer, one Assayer, one Melter and Refiner and one Coiner; and that the officers of the Branch Mints at Charlotte and Dahlonega, severally, shall be one Superintendent, who shall also perform the duties of Treasurer; one assayer, who shall also perform the duties of Melter and Refiner;* and one Coiner; and the annual salaries of the said officers shall be as follows: for the Branch at New Orleans, to the Superintendent, two thousand five hundred dollars; to the Treasurer, the Assayer, the Melter and Refiner, and the Coiner, each two thousand dollars; for the Branches at Charlotte and at Dahlonega, to the Superintendent, two thousand dollars; and to the Assayer and the Coiner, each fifteen hundred dollars.

SECT. 2.—And be it further enacted, That so much of the act, entitled, “An Act to establish Branches of the Mint of the United States,” approved the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, as is inconsistent with the provisions of this act, be and the same is hereby repealed. (Act of Feb. 13th, 1837.)

Duties of
Melter and
Refiner of
the Branch
Mints at
Dahlonega
and Charlotte
imposed upon
the Coiners,

Be it enacted, &c., That an act passed the thirteenth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, to amend an act, entitled “An Act to establish Branches of the Mint of the United States,” passed the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, be, and it is hereby altered and amended, so as to transfer the duties of Melter and Refiner from the Assayer to the Coiner, at the Branches of Dahlonega, in Georgia, and of Charlotte, in North Carolina, respectively, and that all laws and parts of laws conflicting with this act, be, and they are hereby repealed. (Act of Feb. 27th, 1843.)

Oath re-
quired of
officers and
clerks of

Be it enacted, &c., That the oath or affirmation required by the third section of an act passed March

third, eighteen hundred and thirty-five, entitled, "An Act to establish Branches of the Mint of the United States," may be taken before any judge of the superior court, or of any court of record, in the State where the Branch, of which the person taking said oath is an officer or clerk, is situated. (Act of April 2d, 1844.)

Branch
Mints; how
to be taken.

ACT SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1850.

The Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to contract, upon the most reasonable terms, with the proprietors of some well established assaying works now in successful operation in California, upon satisfactory security, to be judged by the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall, under the supervision of the United States assayer to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, perform such duties in assaying and fixing the value of gold in grain and lumps, and forming the same into bars, as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and that the said United States assayer shall cause the stamp of the United States, indicating the degree of fineness and value, to be affixed to each bar or ingot of gold that may be issued from the establishment. Provided, That the United States shall not be held responsible for the loss of any gold deposited with said proprietors for assay.*

Secretary of
Treasury
authorized to
contract with
assaying
works in Cal-
ifornia, to
assay and fix
the value of
gold, under
supervision
of the State
Assayer.

Proviso.

*Repealed by
the 9th sec.
of Act of
July 3, 1852,
page 39.

XV.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERKS TO MINT TREASURERS.

Whereas, by existing laws, the Treasurers of the United States Mint are required to give bond in heavy penalties for the faithful performance of their duties and of those under them; and whereas, it is but just the

Treasurers of
the Mints to
have ap-
pointment of
their own
Clerks.

selection of their clerks should be under their control, therefore

Resolved, &c. &c., That so much of the second section of the act approved March 3d, 1835, "An Act to establish Branches of the Mint of the United States," as vests the appointments of the clerks of the Treasury in the Superintendent of each Mint, be, and the same is hereby repealed; and that the several Treasurers of the United States Mint be, and they are hereby authorized to appoint their own clerks, subject, however, to the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. (Joint Resolution, March 3d, 1851.)

XVI.

ACT ESTABLISHING A BRANCH MINT IN CALIFORNIA.

Branch Mint
establish'd in
California.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a Branch of the Mint of the United States be established in California, to be located by the Secretary of the Treasury, for the coinage of gold and silver.

Building to
be procured.

SECT. 2.—And be it further enacted, That suitable buildings shall be procured or erected, for carrying on the business of said Branch Mint, and the following

Officers to be
appointed.

officers shall be appointed so soon as the public interests may require their services, upon the nomination of the President, and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to wit: one Superintendent, one Treasurer, one Assayer, one Melter and Refiner, and one Coiner. And the said Superintendent shall engage and employ as many clerks and as many subordinate workmen and servants as shall be provided for by law; and until the 30th of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, the salaries of said officers and clerks shall be as follows: to the Superintendent, and to the Treasurer, the

Workmen to
be engaged.

sum of four thousand five hundred dollars each; to the Assayer, to the Melter and Refiner, and to the Coiner, the sum of three thousand dollars each; to the Clerks the sum of two thousand dollars each; to the subordinate workmen such wages and allowance as are customary and reasonable, according to their respective stations and occupations.

SECT. 3.—And be it further enacted, That the officers and clerks to be appointed under this act, before entering upon the duties thereof, shall take an oath or affirmation before some judge of the United States, or of the Supreme Court of the State of California, faithfully and diligently to perform the duties thereof, and shall each become bound to the United States of America, with one or more sureties, to the satisfaction of the Director of the Mint and the Secretary of the Treasury or the District Attorney of the United States, for the State of California, with condition for the faithful and diligent performance of their offices.

SECT. 4.—And be it further enacted, That the general direction of the business of said Branch of the Mint of the United States, shall be under the control and regulation of the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, subject to approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury; and for that purpose, it shall be the duty of the said Director to prescribe such regulations, and require such returns periodically and occasionally, as shall appear to him to be necessary for the purpose of carrying into effect the intention of this act in establishing the said Branch; also, for the purpose of discriminating the coin which shall be stamped at said Branch and at the Mint itself; and also for the purpose of preserving uniformity of weight, form and fineness, in the coins stamped at said Branch; and for that purpose, to require the transmission and delivery to him at the Mint, from time to time, of such parcels of the coinage of said Branch as he shall think proper, to be subjected to such assays and tests as he shall direct.

Salaries of
Officers.

Wages of
Workmen.

Security re-
quired of
Officers and
Clerks.

Director of
the Mint to
have control
of the
Branch Mint.

His duties
for that
object.

Laws regulating the Mint to be applied to said Branch.

SECT. 5.—And be it further enacted, &c., That all the laws and parts of laws now in force for the regulation of the Mint of the United States, and for the government of the officers and persons employed therein, and for the punishment of all offences connected with the Mint or coinage of the United States, shall be, and they are hereby, declared to be in full force in relation to the Branch of the Mint by this act established, so far as the same may be applicable thereto.

Branch to be exempt from State Taxation.

SECT. 6.—And be it further enacted, that no permanent location of said Mint shall be made or buildings erected therefor until the State of California shall, by some law or other public act, pledge the faith of the State that no tax shall at any time be laid, assessed, or collected by the said State, or under the authority of the said State, on the said Branch Mint, or on the buildings which may be erected therefor, or on the fixtures and machinery which may be used therein, or on the lands on which the same may be placed; but nothing in this section contained, shall be understood as implying an admission that any such power of taxation rightfully exists.

To be place of deposit for public money, the Treasurer to perform the duties of Assistant Treasurer.

SECT. 7.—And be it further enacted, That the said Branch Mint shall be the place of deposit for the public moneys collected in the custom houses in the State of California, and for such other public moneys as the Secretary of the Treasury may direct; and the Treasurer of said Branch Mint shall have the custody of the same, and shall perform the duties of an assistant Treasurer, and for that purpose, shall be subject to all the provisions contained in an act entitled "An act to provide for the better organization of the Treasury, and for the collection, safe keeping, transfer, and disbursement of the public revenue," approved August the sixth, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, which relates to the Treasurer of the Branch Mint at New Orleans.

SECT. 8.—And be it further enacted, That if required by the holder, gold in grain or lumps shall be refined, assayed, cast into bars or ingots, and stamped in said Branch Mint or in the Mint of the United States or any of its branches, in such manner as may indicate the value and fineness of the bar or ingot, which shall be paid for by the owner or holder of said bullion, at such rates and charges and under such regulations as the Director of the Mint under the control of the Secretary of the Treasury, may from time to time establish.

Gold to be
issued in as-
sayed bars or
ingots.

SECT. 9.—And be it further enacted, That so soon as the said Branch Mint is established in the State of California, and public notice shall be given thereof in the mode to be designated by the Secretary of the Treasury, then so much of the act making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the government, for the year ending 30th June, 1851, and for other purposes, as provides for the appointment of an United States Assayer, and the contracting for the assaying and fixing the value of gold in grains or lumps and for forming the same into bars, be, and the whole of the clause containing said provisions shall be hereby repealed.

Act provid-
ing for U. S.
Assayer in
California re-
pealed when
this Act
takes effect.

SECT. 10.—And be it further enacted, That before the Secretary of the Treasury shall procure or erect the buildings provided for in the second section of this act, or commence operations under any of the provisions of the same, at San Francisco, State of California, it shall first be his duty to make a contract or contracts, for the erection of said buildings, and procuring the machinery necessary for the operations of said Mint, at a sum or sums which shall not, in the whole, exceed the sum of three hundred thousand dollars, which said contract or contracts shall be secured by good and sufficient sureties, to the satisfaction of the said Secretary of the Treasury and the President of the United States. (Act of July 3d, 1852, c. 54.)

Building and
Machinery
not to exceed
\$300,000.

No building
to be pur-
chased for
said Branch.

And be it further enacted, That the time for receiving bids under the act of third of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, for the erection of a Mint in California, be extended to the first of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, and that the sum of three hundred thousand dollars appropriated by said act, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be applied only to the erection and putting in operation a Mint in California, and not to the purchase of any building for that purpose. (Act of March 3d, 1853, c. 96, s. 6.)

XVII.

COINAGE OF DOUBLE EAGLE, GOLD DOLLAR, AND THREE CENT PIECE AUTHORIZED.

Double
Eagle and
Gold Dollar
authorized.

SECT. 1.—Be it enacted, &c., That there shall be, from time to time, struck and coined at the Mint of the United States, and the Branches thereof, conformably in all respects to law, (except that on the reverse of the gold dollar the figure of the eagle shall be omitted,) and conformably in all respects to the standard for gold coins now established by law, coins of gold of the following denominations and values, viz.: double eagles, each to be of the value of twenty dollars or units; and gold dollars, each to be of the value of one dollar, or unit.

A Legal
Tender.

SECT. 2.—That for all sums whatever, the double eagle shall be a legal tender for twenty dollars; and the gold dollar shall be a legal tender for one dollar.

Laws re'at-
ing to coin-
age applica-
ble thereto.

SECT. 3.—That all laws now in force in relation to the coins of the United States, and the striking and coining of the same, shall, so far as applicable, have full force and effect in relation to the coins herein authorized, whether the said laws are penal or otherwise; and whether they are for preventing counterfeiting or debasement, for protecting the currency, for regulating and guarding the process of striking and coining, and the preparations therefor, or for the security of the coin, or for any other purpose.

SECT. 4.—That in adjusting the weights of gold coins henceforward, the following deviations from the standard weight shall not be exceeded in any of the single pieces, namely, in the double eagle, the eagle, and the half eagle, one half of a grain, and in the quarter eagle and gold dollar, one quarter of a grain, and that in weighing a large number of pieces together; when delivered from the Chief Coiner to the Treasurer, and from the Treasurer to the depositors, the deviation from the standard weight shall not exceed three pennyweights in one thousand double eagles; two pennyweights in one thousand eagles; one and one-half pennyweights in one thousand half eagles; one pennyweight in one thousand quarter eagles; and one half pennyweight in one thousand gold dollars. (Act of March 3d, 1849, c. 109.)

Deviation of weight allowed in the gold coin.

And be it further enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, it shall be lawful to coin at the Mint of the United States and its Branches, a piece of the denomination and legal value of three cents, or three hundredths of a dollar, to be composed of [three-fourths silver and one fourth copper, and to weigh twelve grains and three-eighths of a grain;]* that the said coin shall bear such devices as shall be conspicuously different from those of the other silver coins, and of the gold dollar, but having the inscription United States of America, and its denomination and date; and that it shall be a legal tender, in payment of debts for all sums of thirty cents and under; and that no ingots shall be used for the coinage of the three cent piece herein authorized, of which the quality differs more than five-thousandths from the legal standard; and that in adjusting the weight of the said coin, the following deviations from the standard weight shall not be exceeded, namely, one half of a grain in the single piece, and one pennyweight in a thousand pieces. (Act of March 3d, 1851, c. 21, § 11.)

Three Cent Piece authorized.

* See page 44, Act of Mar. 3, 1853, § 7.

A Legal tender for Thirty Cents.

Allowed variations of weight and fineness.

XVIII.

AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SILVER COIN-
AGE, MINT CHARGES, STAMPED BARS, &c.

New weights
prescribed
for half dol-
lar, quarter
dollar, dime,
and half
dime.

* See page 44,
Act of Mar.
3, 1853.

Be it enacted by the Senate and house of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-two,* the weight of the half dollar piece or fifty cents shall be one hundred and ninety-two grains, and the quarter dollar, dime and half-dime, shall be, respectively, one-half, one-fifth and one-tenth, of the weight of said half dollar.

Legal tender
for \$5.

SECT. 2.—And be it further enacted, That the silver coins issued in conformity with the above section, shall be legal tenders in payment of debts for all sums not exceeding five dollars.

Regulations
as to their
coinage and
the profits
thereof.

SECT. 3.—And be it further enacted, that in order to procure bullion for the requisite coinage of the subdivisions of the dollar authorized by this act, the Treasurer of the Mint shall, with the approval of the Director, purchase such bullion with the bullion fund of the Mint. He shall charge himself with the gain arising from the coinage of such bullion into coin of a nominal value exceeding the intrinsic value thereof, and shall be credited with the difference between such intrinsic value and the price paid for said bullion, and with the expense of distributing said coins as herein-after provided. The balances to his credit, or the profit of said coinage, shall be, from time to time, on a warrant of the Director of the Mint, transferred to the account of the Treasury of the United States.

How said
coins to be
distributed.

SECT. 4.—And be it further enacted, That such coins shall be paid out at the Mint in exchange for gold coins at par, in sums not less than one hundred dollars; and it shall be lawful, also, to transmit parcels of the same from time to time to the assistant Treasurers, depositories, and other officers of the United States, under

general regulations, proposed by the Director of the Mint, and approved by the Secretary of the Treasury: Provided, however, That the amount coined into quarter dollars, dimes, and half dimes, shall be regulated by the Secretary of the Treasury.

SECT. 5.—And be it further enacted, That no deposits for coinage into the half dollar, quarter dollar, dime and half dime, shall hereafter be received, other than those made by the Treasurer of the Mint, as herein authorized, and upon account of the United States.

Private deposits for coinage in such pieces prohibited.

SECT. 6.—And be it further enacted, That at the option of the depositor, gold or silver may be cast into bars or ingots of either pure metal or of standard fineness, as the owner may prefer, with a stamp upon the same, designating its weight and fineness; but no piece of either gold or silver, shall be cast into bars or ingots of a less weight than ten ounces, except pieces of one ounce, of two ounces, of three ounces, and of five ounces, all of which pieces of less weight than ten ounces shall be of the standard fineness, with their weight and fineness stamped upon them; [but in cases whether the gold and silver deposited be coined or cast into bars or ingots, there shall be a charge to the depositor in addition to the charge now made for refining or parting the metals, of one-half of one per centum;] the money arising from this charge of one-half per centum shall be charged to the Treasurer of the Mint, and, from time to time, on warrant of the Director of the Mint, shall be transferred into the treasury of the United States: Provided however, That nothing contained in this section shall be considered as applying to the half dollar, the quarter dollar, the dime, and half dime.

Authorizing assayed bars, ingots or disks.

Modified by Act of Mar. 3, 1853. See page 44.

Charges for coinage required to be transferred to U. S. Treasury.

SECT. 7.—And be it further enacted, That from time to time there shall be struck and coined at the Mint of the United States and the branches thereof, conformably in all respects to law, and conformably in all respects to the standard of gold coins now established by law,

Three dollar piece authorized.

Devices to
be fixed by
Secretary of
Treasury.

a coin of gold of the value of three dollars or units, and all the provisions of an act entitled "An Act to authorize the coinage of gold dollars and double eagles," approved March third, eighteen hundred and forty-nine, shall be applied to the coin herein authorized, so far as the same may be applicable; but the devices and shape of the three dollar piece shall be fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

* See page 41,
Act of Mar. 3,
'51, *infra*.

SECT. 8.—And be it further enacted, That this act shall be in force from and after the first day of June next.* (Act of February 21, 1853, c. 79.)

Of charges
for making
bars, ingots
or disks.

And be it further enacted, That when gold or silver shall be cast into bars or ingots, or formed into disks at the Mint of the United States or any of the Branches thereof, or at any assay office of the United States, the charge for refining, casting, or forming said bars, ingots, or disks, shall be equal to, but not exceed, the actual cost of the operation, including labor, wasteage, use of machinery, materials, &c., to be regulated from time to time by the Secretary of the Treasury. And the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to regulate the size and devices of the new silver coin authorized by an act entitled "An Act amendatory of existing laws relative to the half dollar, quarter dollar, dime, and half dime," passed at the present session; and that to procure such devices, as also the models, moulds, and matrices, or original dies for the coins, disks, or ingots authorized by said act, the Director of the Mint is empowered, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to engage temporarily for that purpose the services of one or more artists, distinguished in their respective departments, who shall be paid for such services from the contingent appropriation for the Mint: And that hereafter the three cent coin now authorized by law shall be made of the weight of three-fiftieths of the weight of the half dollar, as provided in said act, and of the same standard of fineness. And the said act enti-

Of the
devices of
silver coin
and the mode
of procuring
new dies.

Standard
weight and
fineness of
three cent
piece altered.

tled "An Act amendatory of existing laws relative to the half dollar, quarter dollar, dime, and half dime," shall take effect and be in full force from and after the first day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, any thing therein to the contrary notwithstanding. (Act of March 3, 1853, c. 96, § 7.)

Silver coin-
age bill takes
effect April
1, 1853.

XIX. •

AMENDMENT RELATIVE TO THE BULLION FUND FOR PAYMENT OF DEPOSITS.

Be it enacted, &c.,—That for the purpose of enabling the Mint and Branch Mints of the United States, to make returns to depositors with as little delay as possible, it shall be lawful for the President of the United States, when the state of the Treasury shall admit thereof, to direct transfers to be made from time to time to the Mint and Branch Mints, for such sums of public money as he shall judge convenient and necessary, out of which those who bring bullion to the Mint may be paid the value thereof, as soon as practicable after this value has been ascertained; that the bullion so deposited shall become the property of the United States; that no discount or interest shall be charged on money so advanced; and that the Secretary of the Treasury may at any time withdraw the said deposit, or any part thereof, or may, at his discretion, allow the coins formed at the Mint, to be given for their equivalent in other money: Provided, That the bonds given by the United States' Treasurers and Superintendents of the Mints shall be renewed or increased at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, under the operation of this act. (Act of May 23, 1850, c. 12.)

Bullion fund
for payment
of dep. sits
not restricted
in amount;
see page
Act Jan. 18,
'37, § 31.

XX.

PROFITS OF THE MINT.

Profits of the Mint to be paid to the Treasury. * * * and it shall be the duty of the Director of the Mint to cause to be paid annually into the Treasury of the United States, the profits of the Mint, and to present a quarterly account of the expenditures of the Mint to the Secretary of the Treasury. * * * (Act of March 4, 1853, c. 97.)

XXI.

REFINING OF GOLD BULLION AT THE MINT.

Refining of gold in private establishments to be encouraged.

And be it further enacted, That when private establishments shall be made to refine gold bullion, the Secretary of the Treasury, if he shall deem them capable of executing such work, is hereby authorized and required to limit the amount thereof which shall be refined in the Mint at Philadelphia, from quarter to quarter, and to reduce the same progressively, as such establishments shall be extended or multiplied, so as eventually, and as soon as may be, to exclude refining from the Mint, and require that every deposit of gold bullion made therein for coinage shall be adapted to said purpose, without need of refining: Provided, that no advances in coin shall be made upon bullion after this regulation shall be carried into effect except upon bullion refined, as herein prescribed. (Act of March 4, 1853, c. 97, § 5.)

XXII.

ESTABLISHING AN ASSAY OFFICE IN
NEW YORK.

SECT. 10.—And be it further enacted, That the Sec-

retary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and required to establish in the city of New York an office ^{Assay office established in New York.} for the receipt, and for the melting, refining, parting, and assaying of gold and silver bullion and foreign coins, and for casting the same into bars, ingots, or disks. The Assistant Treasurer of the United States in New York shall be Treasurer of the said assay office, and the Secretary of the Treasury shall, with the approbation and consent of the President of the United States, appoint such other officers and clerks, and authorize the employment of such assistants, work- ^{Officers, clerks and workmen.} men and servants as shall be necessary for the proper conduct and management of the said office, and of the business pertaining thereto, at such compensation as shall be approved by the President: ^{Their compensation.} Provided, That the same shall not exceed that allowed for corresponding services under existing laws relating to the Mint of the United States and its Branches.

SECT. 11.—And be it further enacted, That the owner or owners of any gold or silver bullion, in dust or otherwise, or of any foreign coin, shall be entitled to deposit the same in the said office, and the Treasurer thereof shall give a receipt, stating the weight and description thereof, in the manner and under the regulations that are or may be provided in like cases of deposits at the Mint of the United States, with the Treasurer thereof. And such bullion shall without delay be melted, parted, refined, and assayed, and the net value thereof, and of all foreign coins deposited in said office, shall be ascertained, and the Treasurer shall thereupon forthwith issue his certificate of the net value thereof, payable in coins of the same metal as that deposited, either at the office of the Assistant Treasurer ^{Where certificates of deposit payable.} of the United States in New York, or at the Mint of the United States, at the option of the depositor, to be expressed in the certificate, which certificates shall be receivable at any time within sixty days from the date

Receivable
for U. S. dues
at New York.

Bullion may
be cast into
bars if re-
quired.

Bullion to be
transferred
to the Mint
for coinage.

Adjustment
of accounts
on transfers
of Bullion.

Assay office
under gene-
ral direction
of the Direc-
tor of the
Mint.

Laws relative
to the Mint

thereof, in payment of all debts due to the United States at the port of New York for the full sum therein certified. All gold or silver bullion and foreign coin deposited, melted, parted, refined or assayed, as aforesaid, shall, at the option of the depositor, be cast in the said office into bars, ingots, or disks, either of pure metal or of standard fineness, (as the owner may prefer,) with a stamp thereon of such form and device as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, accurately designating its weight and fineness: Provided, That no ingot, bar, or disk shall be cast of less weight than five ounces, unless the same be of standard fineness, and of either one, two, or three ounces in weight. And all gold or silver bullion, and foreign coin, intended by the depositor to be converted into the coins of the United States, shall as soon as assayed and its net value certified as above provided, be transferred to the Mint of the United States, under such directions as shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury, and at the expense of the contingent fund of the Mint, and shall there be coined. And the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized, with the approval of the President of the United States, to make the necessary regulations for the adjustment of the accounts between the respective officers, upon the transfer of any bullion or coin between the assay office, the Mint and assistant Treasurer in New York.

SECT. 12.—And be it further enacted, That the operations of melting, parting, refining, and assaying in the said office, shall be under the general directions of the Director of the Mint, in subordination to the Secretary of the Treasury; and it shall be the duty of the said Director to prescribe such regulations, and to order such tests as shall be requisite to insure faithfulness, accuracy, and uniformity in the operations of the said office.

SECT. 13.—And be it further enacted, That the laws of the United States for the government of the

Mint and its officers in relation to the receipt, payment, custody of deposits, and settlement of accounts, the duties and responsibilities of officers and others employed therein, the oath to be taken and the bond and sureties to be given by them (as far as the same may be applicable) shall extend to the assay office hereby established and to its officers, assistants, clerks, workmen and others employed therein.

SECT. 14.—And be it further enacted, That the same charges shall be made and demanded at the said assay office for refining, parting, casting into bars, ingots, or disks, and for alloy, as are, or shall be made and demanded at the Mint; and no other charges shall be made to depositors than by law are authorized to be made at the Mint; and the amount received from the charges hereby authorized shall be accounted for and appropriated for defraying the contingent expenses of the said office.

SECT. 15.—And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to procure by rent, lease or otherwise, a building or apartments in the city of New York, suitable for the operations of said office, unless he shall be of opinion that suitable apartments in the custom house in that city may be assigned for this purpose. And he is also hereby authorized and directed to procure the necessary machinery and implements for the carrying on the operations and business of the said office.

SECT. 16.—And be it further enacted, That the salary of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States in New York, from and after the time that the said office shall be opened and in operation, shall be six thousand dollars per annum, instead of the sum now allowed.—(Act of March 4th, 1853, c. 97, § 10 to 16.)

SECT. 1.—* * * For carrying into effect the provisions of this act establishing an assay office in the city of New York, in addition to the charges authorized

to be received, one hundred thousand dollars is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated. * * * * *—(Act of March 4th, 1853, c. 97.)

XXIII.

SALARIES AT BRANCH MINT, NEW ORLEANS.

Be it enacted, &c.,—At New Orleans. For salaries of Superintendent, Treasurer, Assayer, Coiner, Melter and Refiner, and Clerks, seventeen thousand three hundred dollars—the salary of the Treasurer being hereby increased from first July, 1850, to four thousand dollars; the salary of Chief Clerk to eighteen hundred dollars; of the other Clerks to fifteen hundred dollars; and the employment of an additional Clerk at fifteen hundred dollars is hereby authorized. (General Appropriation Bill, Sept. 30th 1850.)

XXIV.

SECTION 13, ACT AUGUST 4, 1854.

Increase of
salary of
clerks in the
Mint author-
ized.

That the 7th Section of the Act of January eighteenth, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, entitled, An Act supplementary to the act entitled, "An Act establishing a Mint, and regulating the coins of the United States," be so amended as to extend the limit for the annual salary of Clerks in the Mint of the United States to eighteen hundred dollars each, from and after the first day of July, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, at the discretion of the officers authorized by law to appoint, with the approbation of the President of the United States, including also one Clerk in the office of the Assistant Treasurer at Philadelphia, and that the salary of the Chief Clerk at New Orleans, shall be twenty-two hundred dollars from and after the first of July, 1854.

XXV.

AN ACT RELATING TO FOREIGN COINS AND
TO THE COINAGE OF CENTS AT THE MINT
OF THE UNITED STATES.

SECTION 1.—Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the pieces commonly known as the quarter, eighth, and sixteenth of the Spanish pillar dollar, and of the Mexican dollar, shall be receivable at the treasury of the United States, and its several offices, and at the several post-offices and land-offices, at the rates of valuation following,—that is to say, the fourth of a dollar, or piece of two reals, at twenty cents; the eighth of a dollar, or piece of one real, at ten cents; and the sixteenth of a dollar, or half real, at five cents.

How much Spanish and Mexican coins are to be received for by United States.

SEC. 2.—And be it further enacted, That the said coins, when so received, shall not again be paid out, or put in circulation, but shall be recoined at the Mint. And it shall be the duty of the Director of the Mint, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to prescribe such regulations as may be necessary and proper to secure their transmission to the Mint for recoinage, and the return or distribution of the proceeds thereof, when deemed expedient, and to prescribe such forms of account as may be appropriate and applicable to the circumstances: *Provided*, That the expenses incident to such transmission or distribution, and of recoinage, shall be charged against the account of silver profit and loss, and the net profits, if any, shall be paid from time to time into the Treasury of the United States.

Said coins to be recoined.

SEC. 3.—And be it further enacted, That all former acts authorizing the currency of foreign gold or silver coins, and declaring the same a legal tender in payment

Former acts making foreign coins a currency or legal tender repealed.

Assays of foreign coins to be made, and annually reported.

for debts, are hereby repealed; but it shall be the duty of the Director of the Mint to cause assays to be made, from time to time, of such foreign coins as may be known to our commerce, to determine their average weight, fineness, and value, and to embrace in his annual report a statement of the results thereof.

Weight and composition of cents.

SEC. 4.—And be it further enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, the standard weight of the cent coined at the Mint shall be seventy-two grains, or three twentieths of one ounce troy, with no greater deviation than four grains in each piece; and said cent shall be composed of eighty-eight per centum of copper and twelve per centum of nickel, of such shape and device as may be fixed by the Director of the Mint, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury; and the coinage of the half cent shall cease.

Purchase of bullion therefor.

SEC. 5.—And be it further enacted, That the Treasurer of the Mint, under the instruction of the Secretary of the Treasury, shall, from time to time, purchase from the bullion fund of the Mint the materials necessary for the coinage of such cent piece, and transfer the same to the proper operative officers of the Mint to be manufactured and returned in coin. And the laws in force relating to the Mint and the coinage of the precious metals, and in regard to the sale and distribution of the copper coins, shall, so far as applicable, be extended to the coinage herein provided for: *Provided*, That the net profits of said coinage, ascertained in like manner as is prescribed in the second section of this act, shall be transferred to the Treasury of the United States.

Former laws extended to such cents.

Profits.

Such cents may be paid out and transmitted, &c.

SEC. 6.—And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful to pay out the said cent at the Mint in exchange for any of the gold and silver coins of the United States, and also in exchange for the former copper coins issued: and it shall be lawful to transmit parcels of the said cents, from time to time, to the Assistant Treasurers, Depositories, and other officers of the United States, under general regulations proposed by the Director of the

Mint, and approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, for exchange as aforesaid. And it shall also be lawful for the space of two years from the passage of this act, and no longer, to pay out at the Mint the cents aforesaid for the fractional parts of the dollar hereinbefore named, at their nominal value of twenty-five, twelve-and-a-half and six-and-a-quarter cents, respectively.

To be paid out for certain coins at old rate for two years.

Annual report of Director of the Mint to be made up to June 30.

SEC. 7.—And be it further enacted, That hereafter the Director of the Mint shall make his annual report to the Secretary of the Treasury, up to the thirtieth of June in each year, so that the same may appear in his annual report to Congress on the finances.

APPROVED, February 21, 1857.

A statement of foreign gold and silver coins, prepared by the Director of the Mint to accompany his Annual Report, in pursuance of the Act of February 21, 1857.

EXPLANATORY REMARKS.

Only the principal denominations of coin in each country are set down, other sizes being proportional. When this is not the case, the deviation is stated.

The weight is given in the troy ounce, and decimal fractions thereof, without being carried out to an extreme. This method is preferable to the weight in grains for commercial uses, and corresponds better with the terms of the Mint.

The valuation of gold is given in two columns. In the first is shown the value as compared with the legal content or amount of fine gold in our coin. In the second is shown the value as paid at the Mint after the uniform deduction of one-half of one per cent. The former is the value for any other purpose than coinage, and especially for the purpose of comparison; the latter is the value in exchange for our coins at the Mint.

For the silver there is no fixed legal valuation. The law provides for a shifting of price according to the circumstances of demand and supply. At the moment of making this report the price, which previously was $122\frac{1}{2}$ cents per ounce of standard fineness, has been reduced to 121 cents, at which rate the ensuing values are calculated.

GOLD COINS.

Country.	Denomination.	Weight.	Finen's.	Value.	Value after deduction.
		Oz. dec.	Thous.	D. C. M.	D. C. M.
Australia	Pound of 1852.....	0.281	916.5	5.32.0	5.29.3
Do	Do of 1855.....	0.256	916.5	4.85.0	4.82.6
Austria.....	Ducat.....	0.112	986	2.28.0	2.26.9
Do	Souverain.....	0.363	900	6.77.0	6.73.6
Belgium.....	Twenty-five francs.....	0.254	899	4.72.0	4.69.7
Bolivia	Doubloon	0.867	870	15.58.0	15.50.2
Brazil	20,000 reis.....	0.575	917.5	10.90.5	10.85.1
Central America...	Two escudors.....	0.209	853.5	3.68.0	3.66.2
Chili	Old Doubloon.....	0.867	870	15.57.0	15.49.2
Do	Ten pesos.....	0.492	900	9.15.3	9.10.7
Denmark	Ten thaler.....	0.427	895	7.90.0	7.86.1
Ecuador.....	Four escudors.....	0.433	844	7.60.0	7.56.2
England	Pound, or sovereign, new..	0.256.7	916.5	4.86.3	4.83.9
Do	Do average.....	0.256	915.5	4.84.8	4.82.4
France	Twenty francs, new.....	0.207.5	899.5	3.86.0	3.84.1
Do	Do average.....	0.207	899	3.84.5	3.82.6
Germany, north...	Ten thaler.....	0.427	895	7.90.0	7.86.1
Do	Do Prussian.....	0.427	903	8.00.0	7.96.
Do south...	Ducat.....	0.112	986	2.28.3	2.27.2
Greece.....	Twenty drachms.....	0.185	900	3.45.0	3.43.3
Hindustan.....	Mohur.....	0.374	916	7.08.0	7.04.5
Mexico.....	Doubloon, average.....	0.867.5	866	15.53.4	15.45.6
Naples.....	Six ducati, new.....	0.245	996	5.04.0	5.01.5
Netherlands	Ten guilders.....	0.215	899	3.99.0	3.97.0
New Granada.....	Old doubloon, Bogota.....	0.868	870	15.61.7	15.53.9
Do	Do Popayan.....	0.867	858	15.39.0	15.31.3
Do	Ten pesos, new.....	0.525	891.5	9.67.5	9.62.7
Peru	Old doubloon.....	0.867	868	15.56.0	15.48.2
Do	New, not ascertained.....				
Portugal	Gold crown.....	0.308	912	5.81.3	5.78.4
Rome	2½ scudi, new.....	0.140	900	2.60.0	2.58.7
Russia.....	Five Roubles.....	0.210	916	3.97.6	3.95.7
Sardinia.....	Same as France.....				
Spain	100 reals.....	0.268	896	4.96.3	4.93.9
Sweden.....	Ducat.....	0.111	975	2.26.7	2.25.6
Turkey.....	100 Piastres.....	0.231	915	4.37.4	4.35.2
Tuscany	Sequin.....	0.112	999	2.30.0	2.28.9

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,

Director of Mint.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

Philadelphia, November 9, 1858.

SILVER COINS.

Country.	Denomination.	Weight.	Value.	
			Finen's.	
		Oz. dec.	Thous.	D.C.M.
Austria	Rix dollars	0.902	833	1.01.3
Austria	Scudo or six lire.. ..	0.836	902	1.01.5
Austria.....	20 kreutzer.....	0.215	582	16.8
Belgium.....	Five francs.....	0.803	897	96.8
Bolivia.....	Dollar.....	0.871	900.5	1.05.4
Bolivia.....	Half dollar, 1830.....	0.433	670	38.5
Bolivia.....	Quarter dollar, 1830.....	0.216	670	19.2
Brazil.....	2,000 reis.....	0.820	918.5	1.01.3
Central America.....	Dollar.....	0.866	850	97.3
Chili.....	Old dollar.....	0.864	908	1.04.7
Chili.....	New dollar.....	0.801	900.5	97.0
Denmark.....	Two rigsdaler.....	0.927	877	1.09.4
England.....	Shilling, new.....	0.182.5	924.5	22.7
England.....	Shilling, average.....	0.178	925	22.2
France.....	Five francs, average.....	0.800	900	96.8
Germany, north.....	Thaler.....	0.712	750	71.7
Germany, south.....	Gulden or florin.....	0.340	900	41.2
Germany, north and south.....	2 thaler or 3½ guld.....	1.192	900	1.44.3
Greece.....	Five drachms.....	0.719	900	86.9
Hindustan.....	Rupee.....	0.374	916	46.0
Japan.....	Itzebu.....	0.279	991	37.0
Mexico.....	Dollar, average.....	0.866	901	1.04.9
Naples.....	Scudo.....	0.884	830	98.8
Netherlands.....	2½ guilder.....	0.804	944	1.02.3
Norway.....	Specie-daler.....	0.927	877	1.09.4
New Grenada.....	Dollar of 1857.....	0.803	896	96.8
Peru.....	Old dollar.....	0.866	901	1.04.9
Peru.....	Old dollar of 1855.....	0.766	909	93.6
Peru.....	Half dollar, 1835-'38.....	0.433	650	37.7
Portugal.....	Silver crown.....	0.950	912	1.16.6
Rome.....	Scudo.....	0.864	900	1.04.7
Russia.....	Rouble.....	0.667	875	78.4
Sardinia.....	Five lire.....	0.800	900	96.8
Spain.....	New pistareen.....	0.166	899	20.1
Sweden.....	Rix dollar.....	1.092	750	1.10.1
Switzerland.....	Two francs.....	0.323	899	39.0
Turkey.....	Twenty piastres.....	0.770	830	86.5
Tuscany.....	Florin.....	0.220	925	27.4

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Director of the Mint.**Philadelphia, November 9, 1858.*

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